



State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Circle Oaks Shaded Fuel Break		
PROJECT LOCATION	Township 7North, Range 3West MDBM Near the Community of Circle Oaks Napa, CA 94558	COUNTY	Napa
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Alan K Knopp	PHONE	(707) 889-4213
ADDRESS	4454 Knoxville-Berryessa Road, Napa CA 94558		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Creation of a shaded fuel break behind homes within the Circle Oaks residential community off State Hwy 121 (Monticello Road). The project is designed to protect homes by reducing the fuel hazard behind them. Shaded fuel break activities include pruning existing trees 10-12 feet up the base to remove fuel ladders, thinning pole-sized trees (less than 6 inch DBH), and manual removal of flammable shrubs, such as chemise, manzanita and broom. Ornamentals and special landscaping features will be preserved as requested by individual landowners. Selective thinning and vegetation removal is restricted to a corridor approximately 100 to 200 feet around three sides of the community. The ground will not be disturbed. Slash from the project will be piled and burned during the off fire season and after it has dried for a minimum of 30 days to reduce the smoke production.

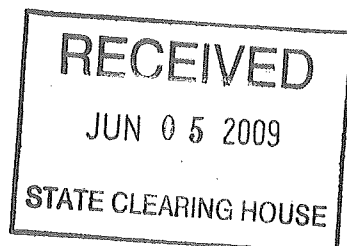
EXEMPTION STATUS

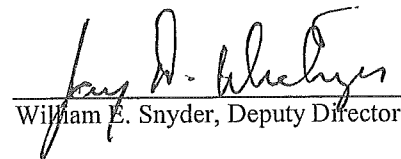
- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class4, §15304 Minor Alterations to Land
7, and 8 §15307 Actions to Protect Natural Resources
§15308 Actions to Protect the Environment
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits within the descriptions of Class 4, 7, and 8 Categorical Exemptions to CEQA. This project involves only fuels treatment work done by hand. No heavy equipment will be used to minimize ground disturbances. The hand cutting and piling of brush done for a defensible space fuels reduction zone will not detrimentally affect the habitat of the plant or animal species that might be found in the project area. The Unit has completed an environmental review to support this Notice of Exemption and to confirm that no unusual conditions or sensitive resources exist which would preclude the use of a Categorical Exemption. Documentation of this environmental review is on file at Unit Headquarters in Saint Helena and at CalFire Headquarters in Sacramento.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



for 
William E. Snyder, Deputy Director

6/5/09
Date